

Office of Child Care Proposed Draft Strategic Plan for Out of School - School-Age Programs FY02 – FY06

Background for Out-of-School Time Programs

DWS contracts with 23 private and public program providers to help operate 61 school-age program sites in Utah. There are 59 school year programs and 11 summer programs partially funded with these grants. The OCC offers training and support to these programs and works to develop awareness and understanding of quality before-and after-school programs. Out-of-school time programs are essential to working parents. Both juvenile crime and victimization triple between 3 and 6 p.m., the hours after school when many children are unsupervised. In Utah 76.2% of women are in the labor force with children between the ages of 6 to 17. Many Utah children lack direct adult supervision.

Utah has 489,629 children between the ages of 5 and 17. (Utah Office of Budget and Planning-11/2000) The nationwide poll conducted in 1999 by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and JCPenny shows that “an overwhelming majority of voters (92%) say that there should be some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day. Voters also say (90%) that they favor providing a program which takes place during after school hours five days a week from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.”

Given the choice between lower personal taxes versus more help for children, 69% of Utah voters choose more help for children. When asked to agree or disagree with issues affecting children and families in Utah: 86% agreed that too many children do not have a safe place to go after school. (*Voters Speak Out on Children's Issues in Utah*, Children's Campaign of Utah, an affiliate of Utah Children, 12/2000)

DESIRED OUTCOMES
<p>School-age programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide essential support for working families.• Improve the lives of children and families in Utah. <p>School-age programs offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality time to do homework with an adult which results in academic gains, fewer absences, and a more positive attitude toward school.• A safe and nurturing environment where children may strengthen positive relationships, gain self esteem and just “hang out.”• Development of interpersonal skills and self regulatory skills.• A wide scope of developmentally appropriate activities.

ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	PRIORITY RANKING
Offer grants to develop, enhance, and support out-of-school time programs. Ensure distribution of funding to both urban and rural areas, private and public school-age programs.		
Administer school-age contracts.		
Provide grant program monitoring and technical assistance. Complete two formal monitoring and technical assistance visits each year.		
Coordinate and implement two school-age grantee training conferences each year.		
Support long-term funding strategies for grantees to decrease dependence on DWS funds. Collaborative Partners: Federal Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Department of Justice, Utah Department of Health, Utah State Office of Education, school districts, county governments, city governments, and private non-profit organizations.		
Provide a funding resource guide. Collaborative Partners: Federal Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Department of Justice, Utah Department of Health, Utah State Office of Education, school districts, county governments, city governments, and private non-profit organizations.		
Offer technical assistance to help school districts, private or community members plan quality after-school programs. Collaborative Partners: Other successful private and public school-age programs.		
Provide a comprehensive overview of out-of-school time programs in Utah. Collaborative Partners: CCR&R's.		
Provide public awareness materials.		
Facilitate collaboration among community groups interested in out-of-school time issues.		
Support state provider associations for school-age specific training. Work toward including school-age professionals in the OCC Provider Achievement Award Program.* *See Plan for Training & Professional Development.		
Collaborate with Utah School-Age Care Alliance when they host the February 2003 national conference in Salt Lake City.		
Encourage Utah school-age programs to move toward national accreditation. Collaborative Partners: Professional provider organizations including, NAEYC/UAECY, NSACA/USACA, UPCCA		